

**Notice of Creditable Prescription Drug Coverage
For Medicare-Eligible Employees, Retirees, and Dependents
Currently Enrolled in the State of Michigan Health Plans**

November 1, 2005

This notice is for all current State employees, retirees, and dependents who have prescription drug coverage under one of the health plans offered by the State of Michigan [including the State Health Plan PPO and approved Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs)] **and who are Medicare-eligible or will become Medicare-eligible in the next 12 months.**

IF YOU ARE NOT MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE AND WILL NOT BECOME MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS, YOU MAY DISREGARD THIS NOTICE.

If you are covered by Medicare, you can enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan between November 15, 2005, and May 15, 2006 (with coverage starting on or after January 1, 2006). Each year after that, you will have an opportunity to join a Medicare prescription drug plan between November 15 and December 31. All Medicare prescription drug plans will provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare.

You must decide whether to enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan **or** keep your State health plan prescription drug coverage. This notice gives you the following important information to help you decide:

1. The prescription drug coverage provided under the State of Michigan health plans is expected, on average in 2006, to pay out at least as much as the standard prescription drug coverage under Medicare Part D. This means the State health plans provide “creditable prescription drug coverage.”
2. Because the prescription drug coverage under the State health plans is “creditable prescription drug coverage,” you can keep your State health plan prescription drug coverage; you do not have to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan. Also, if you decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan after May 15, 2006, you will not have to pay a penalty to enroll in Medicare Part D coverage (so long as you join a Medicare drug plan within 63 days after your State health plan prescription drug coverage ends).
3. Your current State health plan coverage also pays for other health expenses, in addition to prescription drugs, and you will still be eligible to receive these other benefits if you choose to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan.
4. If you decide to enroll in a Medicare drug plan, **your prescription drug coverage under the State health plan will stop** and we cannot guarantee that you will be eligible to restore coverage at a later date if you discontinue your Medicare drug plan.

You do not need to take any action if you wish to continue your prescription drug coverage under your current State health plan.

<p><u>Please keep this Notice.</u> If you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan after May 15, 2006, you will need a copy of this Notice to avoid paying a higher premium amount.</p>

**THIS NOTICE IS PROVIDED BY THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE,
P.O. BOX 30002, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909**

For questions regarding this Notice only (and not general Medicare information),
please call: Lansing Area: **(517) 335-0529** Toll Free: **(877) 766-6447**

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MEDICARE PART D:

- A. More detailed information about the Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is available in the “Medicare & You 2006” handbook. All Medicare-eligible persons should already have received a copy in the mail from Medicare.
 - B. You can also get more information about Medicare prescription drug plans from these places:
 - 1. Online, visit www.medicare.gov, for personalized information. [A PDF version of “Medicare & You 2006” is also available on this site.]
 - 2. Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
 - 3. Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program
(for Michigan residents, call 1-800-803-7174).
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For persons with limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug plan is available. Information on this extra help is available from the Social Security Administration (SSA). For more information on this extra help, visit SSA online at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).
